

Village of Los Lunas



660 Main Street NW P.O. Box 1209
Los Lunas New Mexico 87031
Phone (505) 839-3840 FAX (505) 352-3580

Volume 9 Number 8

September 2005

Capital Improvements Planned

The Village Council has approved the local infrastructure capital improvement plan. This plan details improvements village officials would like to see accomplished over the next four years. The plan includes anticipated costs as well as potential funding sources for projects. A project may be on this list for a specific year but might be moved up or down because of funding.

The top five projects for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 are:

1) Road improvements including second interchange for Interstate 25, estimated to cost \$40 million.

2) Ensuring that the village's water system fulfills the new arsenic requirements, \$10 million (this

project is listed for the 2007-2008 fiscal year but may be accomplished sooner).

3) Construction of new sewer interceptor lines from north of Main Street to Main Street and then south of Main to Morris road (this will include a new lift station), \$5.8 million.

4) Continued work on the new transportation building located at Courthouse and Juan Perea Roads where

the Roadrunner Rail will stop (this will take several years and will cost

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Los Lunas and Merillat Industries officials join Governor Bill Richardson at the August ground breaking for Merillat's cabinet making factory which will eventually employ 700. See more pictures page 2.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Provides Service

Most people don't like to talk, or even think, about how wastewater is dealt with by governmental entities. As Los Lunas has grown from 1,000 in 1970 to more than 10,000 residents, officials have made sure that the wastewater treatment plant can handle the sewage produced in the village.

Village Utilities/Public Works Director Betty Behrend remembers that when she first came to work for the village in 1983, the plant was handling 200,000 gallons a day. In 2004, the plant handled one million gallons a day.

How does a wastewater treatment plant work? It has many components that work together to return water to the Rio Grande as well as to revegetate an area of the mesa

west of Los Lunas.

Sewage is the wastewater released by residences, businesses and industries in a community such as Los Lunas with a sewer system. Sewage is 99.94 percent water with only .06 percent composed of dissolved and suspended material.

Multi-Stage Treatment

Treatment at a wastewater plant is a multi-stage process to clean wastewater before it reenters a body of water, is applied to the land or is reused. The goal is to reduce or remove organic matter, solids, nutrients, disease-causing organisms and other pollutants.

The Rio Grande, where water is returned after going through the treatment process, has limits to the amount of pollutants it can receive.

The Los Lunas wastewater treatment plant, like any other plant, must hold a permit listing the allowable levels of pollutants.

Sewage lines for Los Lunas collect at the wastewater treatment plant located at the south end of Carson Park.

Preliminary Treatment

Once sewage reaches the plant preliminary treatment is used to screen out or separate debris.

Sticks, rags, large food particles, sand, gravel, toys and miscellaneous other items (some of which are hard to imagine) are removed to protect the pumping and other equipment in the plant.

The second stage is a biological process to remove dissolved

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Ground was broken August 10 for Merrillat Industries' factory in the Los Morros Industrial Park (the site is visible from Interstate 25 when approaching the Los Lunas exit). Speakers included (clockwise from upper left) State Senator Michael Sanchez; Governor Bill Richardson; Jim Colson, president and CEO of the New Mexico Economic Development Partnership;

Rick Homans, New Mexico Economic Development secretary; and Alan Barry, president and chief operating officer of Masco Corporation (Merrillat is a Masco company). Manufacturing operations for cabinet production are scheduled for January 2007. At right is the sign announcing the ground breaking with the gold-painted shovels used in the event.

Capital Improvements Planned

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a total of nearly \$6 million).

5) Landfill study, \$313,500.

Other capital improvement projects the village council approved for 2006-2007 includes more parks, improvements to the Enchantment Little League Field, rehabilitation of the Archuleta Building at Main Street and Luna Avenue, wastewater treatment plant expansion, and a community indoor aquatic center.

Capital improvement projects for 2007-2008 include reconstruction of Main Street from Don Pasqual to High-

way 314; improvements to the administrative building at Don Pasqual and Main Street; road improvements; senior center expansion; park improvements; recycle center changes; and water system expansion.

A west side fire station and west side recreation center are on the list for 2008-2009. Projects for the future could be a convention center and storm water management.

Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice a month in the council chambers in the administrative building on the corner of Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2005 are:

September 8 & 22 October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17 December 8 & 29

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are rescheduled so check with village officials at 839-3840 to be sure a meeting has not been changed.

The agenda will be available at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting from the bulletin board in the lobby of the Administration Office, located at 660 Main Street NW, Los Lunas, NM; the Los Lunas Library located at 460 Main Street in Los Lunas, NM; and posted on the village website (address: www.loslunasnm.gov).

BE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE!

**VISIT THE
VILLAGE WEBSITE
www.loslunasnm.gov**

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

**Louis F. Huning Mayor
Councilors**

**Cecilia CC Castillo Charles Griego
Gerard Saiz Robert Vialpando**

**Municipal Judge Jeff Aragon
Village Administrator**

**Phillip Jaramillo Master Municipal Clerk
Chief of Police Nick Balido**

Wastewater Treatment

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organic matter. Sewage micro-organisms are cultivated and added to the wastewater. The microorganisms absorb organic matter.

Air System Stirs

An air system stirs and suspends microorganisms in wastewater. As the microorganisms absorb organic matter and nutrients they grow in size and number. After the microorganisms have been suspended for several hours, they are settled out as a sludge.

Suspended solids and greases are separated from the wastewater. Tanks hold the wastewater for several hours allowing particles to settle to the bottom and greases to flow to the top. Solids drawn off the bottom and skimmed off the top receive further treatment as sludge. The clarified wastewater flows on to the next stage of treatment.

The Final Stage

Final treatment in Los Lunas focuses on removal of disease-causing organisms from wastewater. The water is disinfected using ultraviolet light before being sent to the Rio Grande.

While the water is sent to the Rio Grande, the sludge is taken to the mesa west of Los Lunas where it is spread across a multi-acre site.

Be Sure Limbs Are Not Nuisance; Maintain Your Right-of-Way

The Village Council approved some additions to the village Municipal Code at its August 18, 2005 meeting.

The first addition declares it unlawful to permit the branches or limbs of any trees or shrubbery grown on lands or premises owned or occupied in the village to grow or extend into the space along or above sidewalks or streets so it interferes with the passage along that sidewalk or street.

Any person, firm, corporation who refuses or fails to "abate any of the nuisances" described above within three days after receiving notice from the village to abate the limbs, shall be deemed in violation of the code. Each failure or refusal to remove the limbs or shrubbery "shall constitute a separate violation."

The owner of any occupied or unoccupied lot or tract of land within the village shall not permit the area located between the property line and the curb or the area located outside the property lines where there is no curb to have any growth of weeds to a "greater height than four inches, or any accumulation



Adrian Moya holds the 2004 Maintenance Excellence Award given to the wastewater treatment plant. Plant employees stand with him.

Treatment Plant Given Awards; Employees Trained

The Village's wastewater treatment plant has received numerous awards since it opened in 1983, the most recent being the 2004 Maintenance Excellence Award.

Other awards the plant has received include:

- Good Housekeeping Award for Activated Sludge Treatment Facility;
- State of New Mexico Plant Operator Merit Award;
- Most Improved Facility; and
- Plant Safety Awards.

Several plant employees have received Lab Analyst Operator awards.

Plant employees are constantly being trained and educated about their jobs. The New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association (NMWWA) offers schools and workshops throughout the year. Topics range from Basic Water and Wastewater to Surface Water Chemistry to Water and Wastewater Microbiology and many other topics.

Tests are often given following schools and workshops so that plant employees can be certified in particular subjects. The NMWWA publishes a list of schools/workshops as well as utility operator certification examination schedules.

Conferences with additional educational opportunities are held in association with the Rocky Mountain Section of American Water Works Association, Rocky Mountain Section of Water Environment Association and New Mexico Rural Water Association.

of weeds."

This addition also says "it is the owner of the property adjacent to the right-of-way or alley's responsibility to maintain these areas."

YAFL Plays in Heritage

If you see youngsters playing football this fall at Heritage Park on Lambros Loop then they are probably part of the Young American Football League (YAFL).

The Village's Parks and Recreation Department has partnered this year with YAFL.

There are a total of 11 teams with 25 to 30 kids per team.

Games in Los Lunas will be played at Heritage Park while away games will be played at Bullhead Park on Gibson Southeast in Albuquerque.

The YAFL season extends through November.

North Los Lentes Work

North Los Lentes Road from Camino de Higino through Griego Road, but stopping at the BNSF Railroad tracks, will be worked on this fiscal year. This project will include work on the ditch which will probably be done during the winter when Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District ditches are not filled with water.

The \$400,000 project includes a new road surface, curbs, gutter and sidewalks as well as the ditch crossing. Funding for the project comes from the Municipal Arterial Projects fund which is disbursed through the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Village Council Honors EMT of the Year

The Los Lunas Village Council honored Wanda Bennett at its August 18 meeting for being named the New Mexico Volunteer Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate for the year.

In addition to being an EMT, Bennett is a member

Permit Needed for Temporary Structures Adjacent to Main

The Village Council has passed Ordinance 324 which says that "temporary structures are allowed adjacent to Main Street with the issuance of a permit by the village.

"A permit will be issued for the use of a temporary structure once a quarter for not more than ten days" and the temporary structures must comply with the village's setback requirements which can be found under Chapter 17.48.030 of the village's zoning ordinance (available on the village website www.loslunas.nm.gov.

In addition, Ordinance 324 says "accessory buildings in any residential zone may be located anywhere the main building would be permitted in a rear or side yard and may be placed no closer than ten feet from the main building or another accessory building except that private garages and carports may be closer to the main building than ten feet if adjoined to the main building by an enclosed walkway or an open breezeway."

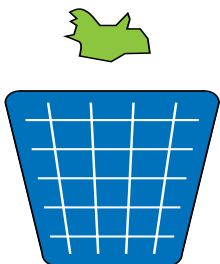
Detached accessory buildings shall not occupy more than 30 percent of a required rear or side yard setback and shall not be used for dwelling purposes.

of the New Mexico Disaster Medical Assistance.

She has been a volunteer with the Los Lunas Fire Department for a number of years. She began at the department as a volunteer fire fighter. Members of the fire department nominated her for the award.

LET'S CLEAN UP LOS LUNAS

COME JOIN THE VILLAGE'S ANNUAL



TREK FOR TRASH



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17

FROM 7:00 AM - NOON

CALL MARIE FOR DETAILS 352-7658

OR CHECK THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.loslunasnm.gov